

Minister of National Health
and Welfare



Ministre de la Santé nationale
et du Bien-être social

Ottawa, K1A 0K9

NOV 28 1989

Mr. Chris Brown
6267 Castille Court
Orleans, Ontario
K1C 1X4

Dear Mr. Brown:

I understand that you have recently had discussions over the phone with Dr. Joseph Losos, Director General, Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Health Protection Branch of my Department, respecting the problem of environmental sensitivities.

My Department is taking steps to help alleviate some problems of those who are unusually sensitive, including additional labelling requirements for additives and excipients in foods and drugs, restrictions on smoking in public buildings, improvements in general air quality in federal buildings, and requests for funding of research on environmental sensitivity through the National Health Research and Development Program (NHRDP).

The Department is also engaged in measures to control human exposure to undesirable chemicals in food, air and water, through legislation such as the Food and Drugs Act, and the Environmental Contaminants Act and its successor, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. In addition, health advice is given to other departments who have the legislative responsibility for other Acts.

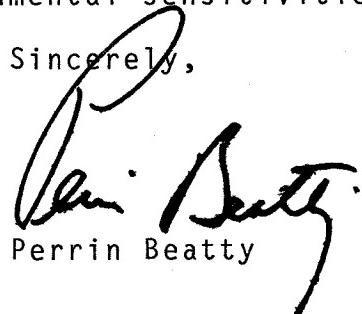
Funding has also been provided to the Allergy Information Association, in order to further their objectives of helping Canadians better understand and cope with problems caused by allergies, one of several components of environmental illness.

Further to my letter of October 11, I wish also to advise you that a preliminary meeting will take place soon with the associations and societies most concerned with this problem. They have been requested to bring forward their concerns to assist with developing objectives for a National Workshop to be held early next year, and to suggest names of persons they believe should participate.

I hope that this workshop will result in new initiatives for my Department in addition to the activities that are currently underway. I can continue to assure you that my Department is aware of the issues and that there will be a collaborative approach to dealing with the problem.

I believe that the above measures indicate my Department's commitment to addressing the concerns of those who are affected by environmental sensitivities.

Sincerely,



Perrin Beatty